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B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

AND OF THE

B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R

and

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R



for the year

1958

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MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1958/59

His Worship the Mayor:	Councillor W.J.O.Bartlett
Deputy Mayor:	Alderman J.A.Pittaway
Aldermen:	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.S.Jones
Councillors:	J.Baylis
	A.E.BENSTEAD
	H.L.Chatterley
	Rev.G.Davies
	R.D.N.Fabricius
	R.S.Hallas
	G.V.Hall
	Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
	R.Jolliffe
	R.Pearson
	H.Roberts

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B. Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

Town Hall,

August, 1959.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Consideration of the Vital Statistics shown under Sections A & F, leads to the following comments. It is encouraging to observe that the Registrar General's Estimate of Population now exceeds 7,000. With a revival of interest in the Birmingham Overspill problem it is a debatable point whether it is better for the population to increase slowly at its natural rate or for there to be a sudden influx to 25-30,000. From the viewpoint of Local Government administration there is no doubt however that the small Boroughs are uneconomical to run. The alternative to Overspill would appear to be an amalgamation of County Districts, if the County Council are to implement the provisions of the Local Government Act 1958. The outcome of negotiations with the City of Birmingham are therefore awaited with great interest.

Remarkably few deaths were registered during 1958, in fact approximately half the number for the previous year, but one can see that the average for the two years is similar to that for England and Wales. The reason would appear to be that the bad weather may cause more deaths either before or after 31st December. All other statistics are comparable with National figures.

With the exception of Measles there were remarkably few cases of Infectious Disease notified. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Whooping Cough, and no cases of Poliomyelitis. This does seem to indicate how successful the Immunisation and Vaccination campaigns are. Certainly I seem to have spent very much more of my time on this work than previously and it would appear to be paying dividends. Perhaps it will soon be possible to provide adequate protection against Measles; meanwhile the General Practitioners exercise constant vigilance and by the appropriate use of antibiotics are able to reduce complications to a minimum. Deaths are rare, but this does not mean that efforts should not be made to avoid spread to pre-school children, as the disease can be fatal in young children.

There was a steady improvement in conditions at the Sea Bathing Lido during the 1958 season, both with respect to the clarity of the water and the standard of hygiene. The Borough Surveyor must be congratulated on his efforts; particularly as it would appear that the improvement is being maintained. I would also like to thank him most sincerely for his co-operation in all matters during the year.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation of the kind consideration shown to me by all members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1958	7060
Number of inhabited houses 1958 (according to Rate Books).	2097
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1958	£92,584
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£378.14.2d.
The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-	
<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Total</u>
Legitimate... 	56 57 113
Illegitimate. 	3 2 5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births - 4.4%	
Standardised Birth Rate. 	16.2
Birth Rate - England and Wales 	16.4
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Total</u>
Legitimate... 	2 2 4
Illegitimate. 	- - -
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 	32.8
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales 	21.6
Total Live and Still Births	122
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Total</u>
Analysis of Deaths 	30 31 61
Standardised Death Rate 	7.0
Death Rate - England and Wales 	11.7
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Total</u>
Legitimate... 	1 - 1
Illegitimate. 	- - -
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live birhts 	8.5.
Legitimate 	8.8
Illegitimate 	NIL
Infantile Mortality rate - England and Wales 	22.6
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Total</u>
Legitimate... 	1 - 1
Illegitimate. 	- - -
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 	8.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales 	16.2
Maternal Deaths 	NIL
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	NIL

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<u>Primary Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
" other	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
" " lung, bronchus	3	1
" " Breast	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3
Loukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	3
Coronary disease, angina	2	3
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-
Other heart diseases	3	8
Other circulatory diseases	1	3
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and Pephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	-	-
Homicide	-	-
End of Section "A"	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>

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SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester, where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is stationed in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and seven part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

Chronic	55
General	12
Maternity	10
Tuberculosis	1

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There is also one full-time Health Visitor for the Borough, whose main duty is the care of young children from 0-5 years, but she is also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. She attends the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and is in close contact with the Women's Voluntary Service. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 2,329 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 2,608 the previous year.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 164 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 161 the previous year.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1958:-

Diphtheria Immunisation (including combined Whooping
Cough injections)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	128
---	-----

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year.	77
--	----

Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year.	140
---	-----

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year.	5
---	---

(f) Admissions to Part III Accommodation - National Assistance Act, 1948

No formal action was necessary during the Year. Funeral expenses were met in one case, in accordance with Section 50 of the Act.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.
- (ii) Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.
- (iii) Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Ronkswood.
- (iv) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.
- (v) The town is well recognised as one of the leading Centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 50-60 beds and St. John's Hospital 48 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

RE: [Illegible Title]

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Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of Section 'B'

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that the conditions of the early earth were such that the formation of organic molecules was a natural consequence of the physical and chemical processes going on at the time.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the theory of spontaneous generation. It is shown that this theory is based on the fact that the conditions of the early earth were such that the formation of organic molecules was a natural consequence of the physical and chemical processes going on at the time.

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

As a result of the Minister's proposals that Local Authorities should co-operate in the formation of Joint Water-Boards, negotiations were entered into with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company for the sale of the Borough Council's water undertaking to them. It seems likely that this Private Company will become the East Worcestershire Joint Water Board.

The change over should not materially affect the position and water charges should remain unchanged.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of Standpipes in the area	11
----------------------------------	----

Number of Wells in the area	16
-----------------------------	----

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER

Colour	Colourless
Odour	None
Appearance	Clear pH. 7.4

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in suspension	(Dried at 100° C)	-
" " solution	(Dried at 180° C)	300
" " "	(After ignition)	255
Chlorides calculated as common salt		20
Hardness, permanent		80
" temporary		125
" total		205
Free and saline Ammonia		0.02
Albuminoid Ammonia		Trace
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)		7.2
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)		Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)		0.15
Toxic Metals		None detected
Residual Chlorine on receipt		0.01

Opinion

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

DATE: 1st January, 1959.

Signed: W.E. Jones
for County Analyst.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) in two days at 37°	Nil per 100 ml.
(b) Faecal Coli	" " 100 ml.

Opinion

The sample is fit for drinking.

DATE: 31st December, 1958.

Signed: R.J. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road are under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor.

Careful attention to detail by the Borough Surveyor's Staff has kept the Sewage Works running as efficiently as possible but there is little doubt that extensive improvements must be effected. Flow through the Sedimentation and Humus Tanks is far too rapid, and solids are visible in the final effluent. Sludge drying facilities are also unsuitable and more modern methods should be adopted.

Sample of Final Effluent - Sewage Works, Hampton Road, Droitwich

Physical Characters. Colour Slightly Opalescent, brown
Deposit - Brown
Odour - Slight, earthy.

<u>Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C)	56
" " solution (Dried at 180° C)	6450
" " " After ignition	6240
Chlorine present as Chloride	3980
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	3.4
Albuminoid "	2.3
Nitrate Nitrogen	9.2
Nitrite	0.5
Permanganate value (4 hours at 27° C)	10.6
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (B.O.D).	16.7
pH value	6.7

DATE: 23rd December, 1958.

Signed: M.M.Love
County Analyst.

The effluent fails to reach the Royal Commission's standards with respect to solids in suspension.

Extension of the existing works to deal with the present flow together with the provision for the natural growth of the Borough has been under consideration for some time; in fact, seven acres of land adjoining the works were purchased. Reconsideration of the Birmingham Over-spill problem has, however posed the question as to whether a new Disposal Works will be needed, and this would be better sited further down the River Salwarpe. The Consulting Engineer has been asked to look into the problem bearing in mind the County Planning Officer's proposals for town development.

3. Swimming Bath

During the previous season the Droitwich Lido had been placed under the general supervision of the Borough Surveyor with a Pool Supervisor in charge. Early in 1958 further work was carried out on the purification plant so as to get it into working order before the season started. In addition to both Sand filters being thoroughly overhauled, new pumping equipment was provided and a completely new system of break-point chlorination installed, including a dosimeter for the addition of Soda-ash. Although the season was rather a wet one, attendances were fairly good and certainly the standard of purity of the water in the bath was a great improvement compared with the previous year.

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4. Refuse Disposal

Controlled tipping was continued during the year on the area of land adjacent to the King George's playing fields.

Difficulty was encountered in disposing of tins set aside for salvage, and at one period during the hot weather it was felt wiser to revert to the practice of burying them. The site is nearly worked out, and consideration has been given to tipping in the disused portion of the Canal between Hanbury Wharf and the Borough, but it seems likely that this project will be rejected in favour of a quarry site at Upton Warren.

5. Droitwich Canal

As a result of further meter readings of the amount of brine discharge for Droitwich Brine Baths, the Consulting Engineers advised that a smaller scheme would meet the requirements of the Canal Abandonment Act. Meetings were held with both Worcester and Coventry City and later with the Trustees of the Brine Baths, together with representatives of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Management of the Brine Baths eventually agreed to contribute towards the cost of the Scheme, and the Borough Council decided in favour of the smaller scheme, thereby forfeiting the grants offered by Worcester and Coventry, but not that from the County Council. The Consulting Engineer has now been asked to proceed with detailed plans.

End of Section "C"

SECTION "D"--HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1958:-

Number of new houses erected:-

(1) By the Local Authority	NIL
(2) By other Local Authorities	NIL
(3) By other bodies or persons	40

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	85
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	165
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	55
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	70
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	19
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	3
(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices.	
By Owners	3
By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	NONE

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(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

By Owners	NONE
By Local Authority in default of Owners	NONE

(3) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	14
--	----

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	-
---	---

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	NONE
---	------

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	NONE
--	------

4. Housing Act, 1936 Part IV. Overcrowding

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year:-	8
--	---

(b) Number of families dwelling therein	11
---	----

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	66
--	----

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
--	---

(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	NONE
--	------

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	NONE
---	------

(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	NONE
--	------

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of Food Premises within the Borough was carried out throughout the year by the Public Health Inspector. Generally speaking the standard set by the Catering Industry is excellent, and most shop premises satisfactory. Most of the complaints received related to retailers operating from outside the town. Consideration was given to taking statutory action in the case of a cockroach found in a loaf of bread, and pieces of metal found in sliced bread, warning letters being sent in both cases to firms outside the Borough. A successful prosecution was taken against a local butcher's shop for fly larvae found inside a meat pie. The majority of ice-cream samples were satisfactory but one or two were not. They were found to be due to contamination of large 1 gallon cannisters from which portions are dispensed with a metal spoon. Improvements were obtained with sanitary facilities at these premises.

There is one manufacturer and thirty five retailers of Ice-Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Three premises are registered as Dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and six dealers distribute milk within the Borough. Licences issued during the year were for the following designations:-

Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised only	2

Routine meat inspection was carried out by the Public Health Inspector at the one private slaughterhouse operating in the Borough, and the quantity of meat dealt with is shown on the following table:-

Schedule of Meat Inspected During the Year 1958

	<u>Cattle Excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed (if known) approx	107	-	3	329	234
Number inspected	107	-	3	329	234
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	3	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerchi	3.7	-	-	1.5	1.7
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.9	-	-	-	2.9
<u>Cysticercosia</u>	-	-	-	-	-

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table:-

Disease	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-
Measles	198	-	-

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1 year	-	7	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	31	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	1	43	-	-	-
5 years	3	106	1	-	-
10 "	-	7	-	-	-
15 "	-	2	-	-	-
20 "	-	1	-	-	1
35 "	-	-	-	1	-
45 " & over	-	1	-	2	-
Totals	4	198	1	3	1

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below.

<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	M . F.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory
	M.	F.			M.	F.	
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	1	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	2	1	2	1	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1958 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1958	24	18	1	7
Additions to register during year - New Cases	2	2	1	2
- Others	-	2	-	-
	26	21	2	9
Deductions from register during year	3	2	-	1
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1958	23	19	2	8

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G"

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made as follows:-

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|-----|
| 1. | (a) | Number of Factories on register in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority | 46 |
| | | Number of Inspections made | 8 |
| | (b) | Number of Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. | NIL |
| | | Number of Inspections made | NIL |
| | (c) | Number of other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | NIL |
| | | Number of Inspections made | NIL |
| 2. | | Cases in which Defects were found | NIL |
| 3. | | Number of Out-workers in list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (3). | NIL |

End of Section "G"

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Town Hall,
Droitwich.

August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the 14th year of my office with your Council as Public Health Inspector, Engineer & Surveyor.

The year has been notable for the recommencement of the work of the clearance of obsolete properties; as will be seen from a perusal of the report, five such families have been re-housed.

The major factor overshadowing the whole year has been the question of overspill which is now dominating practically the whole development of the Borough, the problem before your Council being basically the question of the revision of Local Government boundaries. I think it is agreed by all parties that it is desirable for Droitwich to grow, the question being whether it shall be by overspill or by more natural development fostered by the joint efforts of the County and Borough Councils.

I think one cannot emphasise too strongly how this is affecting the Borough. In my last report I was pleased to say that the development of the new sewage works was proceeding and land had been acquired. This is now completely in abeyance and the whole siting of the works has to be reconsidered. Valuable development has to be postponed owing to lack of sewers of sufficient size which cannot properly be provided until the future development of the town is reasonably foreseen.

The provision of an adequate refuse disposal tip is another problem confronting you. It is most desirable that this should be considered from a long term point of view. Here also it is difficult to plan for a very uncertain population.

A more optimistic note can be sounded in respect of the canal. It does seem likely that this troublesome matter will be cleared up in the foreseeable future.

May I once again thank your Council for your continued support and our happy relationships together during what is for the Borough a momentous period of its long history. I would also thank the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, my own staff and my other colleagues for their valued advice, assistance and co-operation.

A statement of inspections made in 1958 is as follows:-

Visits of inspection of works in progress at Chawson, New Witton Estate, Lyttelton Road, New Bungalows and Shops, Charles Henry Road, and Roundabouts Estate	123
Visits to direct labour and contract works ...	268
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws	377

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Inspections re maintenance of highways	203
Inspections re public water supply	35
Inspections re factories including bakehouses ...	8
Inspections of food shops and catering premises ..	29
Inspections of Slaughterhouse... ..	106
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	444
Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	115
Visits re supervision of Lido, Parks and Public Open Spaces	337
Visits re Canal Scheme	34
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage, water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluents	21
Number of houses inspected for housing defects, including re-visits	165
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advice re planning and building byelaws	141
Inspections of petroleum installations	24
Inspection of houses regarding grants or in course of improvement	41
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded. ...	56

New Housing

After the completion of the first contract at the Chawson Estate, the Council decided not to continue building houses for the present, except for some limited infilling. A scheme consisting of four bungalows in Vines Lane together with a Close of five bungalows, four flats and two shops in Charles Henry Road was proposed. The Scheme was well on the way and it is hoped that on completion a number of tenants under-occupying three bedroomed Council houses will be persuaded to transfer to the bungalows, thus making the three bedroomed houses available for families.

From an examination of the housing waiting list it is apparent that in the main the housing problem has been met. There are a number of couples for whom flats would be desirable and doubtless this will receive the Council's consideration during the coming year.

The erection of the New Witton private estate continues whereat Messrs. George Bourne Ltd., completed the erection of 29 houses. 11 other houses were built by private developers in various parts of the town.

The development of the small Estate known as the Roundabouts off Newland Road was commenced.

The Council continued to lend money for the purchase of houses privately and 19 loans were made under the Housing Act 1949 during the year.

A further block of 5 garages was built at Stalls Farm and 10 more at Chawson, and 8 at St. Peter's Crescent were proposed.

Housing circumstances within the Borough

The Council reached an important decision early in the year agreeing to continue with the clearance of unfit property and a number of blocks of property were emptied of their tenants, the tenants being re-housed in Council houses. The number affected was five. Noteworthy was the clearance of the Brook-side property and also the block at the junction of Vines Lane with Hampton Road.

A difficult problem was encountered in High Street when a house and shop showed signs of collapse and had to be shored up. Protracted negotiations upon the repair of the property were proceeding during the remainder of the year.

Improvement Grants

Three improvement grants were made during the year, none being refused. Grants made were as follows:-

Mr. R. J. Gittins, 11, St. Peter's Walk	£383. 5. 0.
Mr. V. H. Knight, 13; Ombersley Street in respect of No. 138, Worcester Road	£400. 0. 0.
Mrs. E. A. Clarke of 12, Princes Avenue	£110. 0. 0.

Applications for Council Houses

137 applicants for Council houses were registered at the close of the year and there were 68 other applicants who were awaiting completion of their registration period. This shows an increase in numbers, primarily due to the fact that no further houses are at present being built owing to the unfavourable Bank rate.

Council House Management

Your Council owned, including No. 1. Hanbury Road, 701 houses in December, 1958, all of which have been maintained in a proper condition.

The costs of maintenance appear to be rising and I think this is a matter to which the Council will wish to give careful consideration in relation to future policy.

The Council have nine painters working and 148 houses were painted externally last year, which gives a five year painting cycle, which is quite satisfactory. To reduce this to a six year cycle (which I do not advocate), i.e., 100 houses per annum, would save about £720 per year.

Repairs of many kinds were carried out to the houses, and generally speaking these are executed within a matter of a few days of notification. You will note the large number of inspections of houses which have to be made by members of your staff.

26 tenants were permitted to exchange houses.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughtering continued at the slaughterhouse of Messrs. Levett and Hill where animals are killed primarily for the use of the butcher's own business. The standard of meat killed is good and during the year the following carcasses were inspected:-

<u>Oxon</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
107	3	234	329

420 lbs of meat were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned as being unfit for food.

8 tins of canned foodstuffs weighing 61 lbs. 14 ozs. were found on inspection at various hotels and grocery premises to be unfit for food and these were voluntarily surrendered.

The coming into operation of the Slaughterhouse Act raises the question of the licensing of the slaughterhouse of Messrs. Levett & Hill. It does not comply with the requirements of the Act. There are, however, comparatively few animals killed in it.

Food Premises

The following food premises were in being within the Borough:-

Hotels	5
Cafe's	8
Canteens	4
Grocers	24
Butchers	10
Fishmongers	3

Generally speaking the premises are maintained in a reasonably good condition and routine inspections are made from time to time.

The Poultry Packing Station which was causing a problem in your previous year closed down and the premises changed ownership.

A local firm of butchers were successfully prosecuted for the sale of a pork pie in a condition not fit for consumption.

Sampling

Samples have been taken during the year as follows:-

Ice Cream	10
Town Water	2
Sewage Effluent	2
Lido Water	5
Well Water	2

Scavenging and Public Cleansing

Weekly collections of refuse have continued during the year and thrice weekly collections from the hotels. Trade waste is collected from a variety of premises on payment for the collection. Disposal of refuse has been by controlled tipping on land off Ombersley Road and the tip has been satisfactorily maintained.

The question of the redevelopment of the old tip has been brought to your Council's attention on several occasions and it is hoped that this derelict land will be brought back into use at least for grazing as soon as the tip is completed.

The life of the tip is now running out and steps are being taken to find an alternative one. This is by no means easy and at the end of the year negotiations were in progress with the Queslett Sand & Gravel Company for the use of their pit now disused at Upton Warren. One of the major difficulties is that this tip is full of water which will have to be drained off before usage can take place.

Planning application has been made for the use of this pit but to date approval has not been received.

Tipping also took place in the canal along Hampton Road. No nuisance or complaints were received but there are difficulties which became apparent on usage. One is that a long line of tipping results and numerous accesses will be required to properly tip in the Canal. The canal can be used for tipping but I think its general use for this purpose is limited.

Salvage collection continues and below I indicate the quantity of waste paper collected and sold. Tins were collected baled and sold as stated but during the year the demand disappeared and the salvage of tins ceased.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>		<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Mixed Waste Paper	33	16	1	value	270.	11.	10.
Scrap Iron	5.	14.	1	"	45.	0.	11.
Scrap tins	17.	17	0	"	91.	16.	3.
Old Motor Tyres		5.	2.	"	1.	18.	6.
Total value					£ 409.	7.	6.

Street cleansing has been carried out by means of the Manu-Electric truck and the streets have been maintained in a good state of cleanliness. Gulley emptying is by contract and the use of a gully emptying machine.

Rodent Control

I am glad to report that the Borough remains free from rats and mice. Your Rodent Operator continues on the bi-monthly surveys and where appropriate carries out poisoning. Only isolated rats have been discovered and it is pleasing to report that the rat population in the Borough is very low.

A summary of work carried out is as follows:-

Rodent Control (Contd)

		<u>Type of Property</u>			
		<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All other including Business & Industrial</u>	<u>Total. Agricultural</u>
1.	Total No. of properties in Borough	9	2004	188	2192 11
2.	No. of properties inspected as a result of:-				
	(a) Notification	-	15	9	24 -
	(b) Survey under the Act	9	582	31	622 11
	(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	- -
3.	No. of properties inspected (in Sect. II) found to be infested by:-				
	(a) <u>Rats</u> Major	-	-	-	- -
	Minor	4	7	7	18 2
	(b) <u>Mice</u> Major	-	-	-	- -
	Minor	-	8	5	13 -
4.	No. of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated	4	15	12	31 2
5.	No. of notices served under Section 4 of Act.				
	(a) Treatment	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL NIL
	(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL NIL

Highways

The private street known as Lyttelton Road South was made up for which the frontagers were charged and repayments made. This street has now been adopted and it is undoubtedly a great improvement.

Further work upon footpaths was authorised and at the end of the year the unmade footpath on the West side of Lyttelton Road was shortly to be commenced, the large trees having been removed. Paths in Corbett Street and the lower part of Corbett Avenue were reconstructed. A useful improvement was made in Holloway Road when the road level was lifted near the entrance to St. Peter's Walk and the elevated footpath reconstructed at a lower level.

The foot of Newland Hill proved troublesome in the latter part of the Autumn due to frequent flooding. This was found to be due partially to the blocking of the drain from this carriageway. One of the problems appears to be that the adjoining fields have been raised in level during the past years

and the water now flows from them on to the carriageway, with the consequent result that in wet weather and particularly during the removal of sugar beet from the fields, mud is carted on to the roads and blocks up the drainage system.

The surface water sewer was extended 350 yards along Holloway Road to improve the drainage of this Class III road, and afford facilities for drainage of Pilgrim Road.

A scheme for the completion of Newland Road and Tagwell Road is in hand.

Streets and verges were treated with weed killer again during the Spring and effective control of the weeds was continued. This helped a great deal in keeping the streets of the Town tidy and I am glad to say that with experience no trees or hedges were damaged so far as I am aware.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The weekly systematic inspection of sewers has been made and during the year no major blockages have occurred.

It is apparent that with the growth of the town some of the sewers are now flowing to capacity

Queen Street has had flooding on several occasions in the yards at the rear of the houses. Unfortunately due to various reasons outside the Council's control the extension of the sewage works is not proceeding and the relief sewers which were to be constructed with these extensions have not been constructed.

In September during a heavy thunderstorm the electricity supply to the High Street sewage ejector failed with consequent flooding of High Street, and the houses adjoining. The Council are giving consideration to the installation of a stand-by oil pumping plant at the High Street Ejector to endeavour to guard against this contingency. The Sewage Disposal Works still continued in a very over-loaded condition. As far as is possible the plant is maintained up to standard and your Manager is doing good work in endeavouring to keep as good an effluent as possible discharging from the works. The condition of the works is steadily deteriorating, primarily due to the gradually increasing sewage flow coming to the works. This is a matter for concern particularly in view of the fact that no matter how soon definite instructions are given for the building of works, it will take quite a considerable time to complete them. The problem of overspill has again arisen and it seems likely that the Council will not be able to reconstruct the works until a decision has been reached.

Water Supply

During the year it was decided to sell the water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Water Company.

New mains were laid at the new Witton and Roundabouts Estates.

The water consumption in 1958 amounted to 107,198,000 gallons, averaging 293,693 gallons per day as compared with an average of 290,920 gallons per day in 1957.

Parks and Open Spaces

These were maintained in as good a condition as is possible with labour available.

The area of grass for cutting grows apace and the provision of a tractor and grass cutter was before you.

King George Playing Field is still in use to its capacity. In fact it is being used more than it can reasonably take. Once again I would call your attention to the desirability of the adjoining derelict land being redeveloped and brought back into use if only as meadow land for sheep to graze upon.

Vines Park and Droitwich Park Bowling Greens were maintained in satisfactory order and received the approval of the Worcestershire Bowling Association. The greenhouses were removed from Vines Park and centralised at the Droitwich Park. This should be a good improvement and allow for better and cheaper maintenance.

Droitwich Park and Lido

The season proved to be a better one at least from the point of view of the condition of the Lido. The work to the purification plant carried out in the previous off-season bore fruit, and particularly the break-point chlorinator installation, and a good clear water was available for swimming during the whole of the season.

The Park, including the bowling green was maintained in good condition and during the year two further hard tennis courts were made and these proved very popular.

Droitwich Canal

Contrary to hopes the canal scheme did not materialise during the year and the deterioration of the canal continues. Successful negotiations with Messrs.Droitwich Spa Ltd., took place, however, and it does seem likely as the year concludes that real work will go ahead with the canal scheme and this problem be solved in the not too distant future.

Mortuary

Further discussions took place with the Rural District Council during the year, but no decision was reached upon the provision of more modern mortuary accommodation.

Industrial Development

Industrial development recommenced with the building of the two factories for Messrs.Barton Rivet Co.Ltd., and Messrs.Trinity Engineering Company.

The land leased by your Council to Messrs.Harrison Smith Buildings is developing quickly into a trading estate with a number of small industries upon it.

I am,
Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor

